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THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

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FRIDAY, MARCH 20, 1992

Blacks Who Use 'Racism' as Their Excuse

By ROBERT L. WOODSON

A black congressman is arrested for driving drunk the wrong way on a main thoroughfare. He charges racism. A black federal judge is found guilty of accepting bribes to lower the sentence of a convicted drug dealer. He charges racism. Two black deputy mayors go to jail for stealing money intended for the poor. Again, the charge is racism. A state senator was caught setting up a scheme to defraud the food stamp program intended for his low-income constituents. He too cries racism and upon release from jail attempts to run again to represent his district.

And now, Mike Tyson's rape case is just one more unhappy episode in the erosion of the moral legacy of the civil rights movement. Leading black ministers and civil rights groups organized a support group for Tyson—not to demand equal justice before the bar, but to exonerate him before his trial and exempt him from punishment after he was found guilty (by a jury that included blacks).

Of course, now we know—thanks to the press—that the bottom line for the ministers was money. They were simply protecting a major donor. The National Baptist Convention, and its president, T.J. Jemison, had a building campaign to complete. As one of the denomination's pastors explained to the Washington Post, "It was a dollar-and-cents proposition—Tyson can't give money when he's in jail."

It is becoming increasingly clear that corruption, greed and personal indiscretions have become "entitlements" for black celebrities and elected officials. The message being sent to young blacks is also clear—"Rape your sisters; it's the racist society's fault! Rob and plunder your brothers; you have an exemption! And, you can rip hell out of the social contract if you'll help us with our fundraising!"

During the '50s, while stationed at military bases in Florida and Mississippi, I was repulsed to see the white criminal justice system often look the other way when confronted with black-on-black crime. Even murderers and rapists were given light sentences or never even tried if they had violated other blacks. This was all happening against a backdrop in which even the slightest offense by a black against a white was punished to the most severe degree.

One of the central tenets of the civil rights movement was a demand for equal justice before the bar and an insistence that blacks be judged, in Martin Luther King's words, "by the content of their

character and not the color of their skin." The moral authority of this struggle was undeniable, and people of all races and ethnic backgrounds joined forces in the quest for fairness and equality of opportunity.

A significant part of Dr. King's leadership quality was his moral consistency on social issues. He opposed the violence of the Klu Klux Klan, but he also stood against the retaliatory violence of the Black Panther Party. Even though he was the target of J. Edgar Hoover who, cynically and arrogantly, used the power of government to violate Dr. King's privacy and "leak" his personal indiscretions, never once did Dr. King recruit any of his followers to defend him against these attacks. Nor did he ever seek to charge his personal weaknesses on his civil rights credit card.

But, today, an eclipse has fallen across the shining examples of moral leadership that once distinguished the civil rights movement. Today's molders of black opinion have scorned and abandoned that great legacy and are descending into a moral and spiritual sinkhole where skin color, celebrity, and political status have become substitutes for character and integrity.

When they wonder why inner city youths will beat a pastor to death in front of his congregation and kill women and children if they stand in the path of a drug transaction, they should look no further than their own example. There is truth in the saying that our children listen to nothing we say, but are guided by everything we do.

My worst nightmare is for America to turn back to those days when we were judged, not by the content of our character, but the color of our skin. In addition to abusing the trust given to them, many black leaders are ignoring the dangers of the precedents they are setting. The door they have unlatched can swing both ways. Immunity from justice by virtue of race, when expanded, can result in tragedies as horrendous as those perpetrated by Idi Amin, who terrorized and murdered millions of his people in Uganda, only to be defended by black activists who labeled the reaction of the world community against him as "racist."

For the sake of the survival of our society and this nation, people of all ethnic and racial backgrounds should, once again, rise together in a demand for equal justice. Rather than being intimidated by the fear of being called a racist (or a black conservative), we must take bold action

against those who are trashing our legacy. It is only from the moral highground that we can once again tap the energy and authority to establish an environment of true justice for all.

An inheritance always presents its trustees with a choice: Squander it through selfish pursuits or strengthen and increase it for the sake of future generations. Our forebears served their generation, and ours, well as custodians of the heritage. They maintained productive lives, intact families, and mutual support networks in the midst of slavery, discrimination and lynchings.

What are we doing with our legacy?

Mr. Woodson is president of the National Center for Neighborhood Enterprise, in Washington.

Switching from affirmative action to self-reliance

By ROBERT L. WOODSON

When historians analyze the controversy surrounding Clarence Thomas' nomination to the Supreme Court, they see it as a defining moment in our national debate over a crucial question — a question that, incidentally, has nothing to do with Anita Hill. The question, which is sure to play out further in the presidential

Many black professionals have a vested interest in keeping poor blacks in a situation of dependency.

campaign, is whether the nation, in dealing with civil rights, will continue to rely on traditional race-based strategies calling for affirmative action or turn to the race-blind initiatives stressing self-reliance for which Thomas had become a standard bearer.

To me, it seems inevitable that the latter will prevail. It's become increasingly obvious that the old strategies, which assume that the cause of all the difficulties of blacks is racism alone, are not working when it comes to the major problem facing America: the

unceasing growth of the economic underclass.

Over the last 30 years the income gap between low-income blacks and upper-income blacks has steadily widened. Black families with incomes in excess of \$30,000 (in constant dollars) have increased by nearly 350 percent. Yet one-third of the black population remains mired at the bottom of the economy. Now if race is the sole cause of economic hardship, why aren't all blacks suffering to the same extent?

Even more difficult to explain is how the situation of low-income blacks, for whom affirmative action and set-asides have manifestly held no benefits, can be cited to justify demands promoting those strategies.

Those who defend traditional civil rights strategies argue that they are not to blame and that the source of the crisis of low-income blacks is the budget cuts of Republican presidents throughout the last 12 years. This argument ignores the fact that, even during the Reagan years, federal spending for social programs increased by 18 percent in real terms, and it sidesteps the fact that much of the responsibility for determining the use of funds in our cities is in the hands of local, not federal, government.

It is local governments that have made decisions that have resulted in a situation in which 80 percent of all economic development dollars that have flowed from the national government to our major cities have supported business districts and only 12 cents of each dollar has



Special to The Inquirer / JOHN OVERMYER

been directed to low-income neighborhoods.

Ironically, this has occurred in a 20-year period during which there has been a dramatic increase in black control of local government. Black mayors are now, or recently have been, at the helm of five of the nation's seven largest cities. It is these mayors who now point with pride to the dramatic improvements of their downtown areas, while abdicating responsibility for their lower-income neighborhoods.

Before change in strategies can occur, however, the traditional leadership of the black community will have to acknowledge that part of their reluctance to abandon old strategies that have not helped low-income blacks is due to the fact that many other blacks have reaped rewards from the old system — including affirmative action and the welfare bureaucracy.

A 1986 study by the White House Office of Policy revealed that, of all funds directed through programs to help the poor, 70 cents of each dollar is absorbed by professional service providers. Many middle-income blacks are clustered in these jobs. (Half of college-educated blacks have government jobs, compared with one-sixth of whites.) In short, we have a situation in which one group of blacks has a proprietary interest in maintaining another group of blacks in a situation of dependency.

It is well past time to acknowledge that a new strategy is needed. The energy that has been expended on demands for social justice must be channeled to strengthen the social

and economic infrastructure of our communities. Rather than seeking protection from the forces of the marketplace, blacks should be gleaming the information, training and resources that will empower them to participate in the economy.

Innovative and creative strategies are now needed that will tap the talents and energies of our low-income people. A system that has defined people by their disabilities — the unemployed, the dysfunctional — must give way to a system that identifies their capacities.

The strengths necessary to succeed already exist within low-income communities. They need only be recognized and fostered. When they are, creative entrepreneurial initiatives flourish. Public-housing residents create day-care centers, health facilities and innovative companies within their neighborhoods; children thrive in community-based schools that work closely with their parents.

And the movement toward self-reliance in no way negates or denies the gains made by the civil rights efforts of the past. Those who sacrificed to win the key to the door of opportunity must be esteemed. But our gratitude to them must translate into developing strategies that will empower blacks to open that door. To do less is to waste the prize that they had fought so hard to secure.

Robert L. Woodson is president of the National Center for Neighborhood Enterprise in Washington, a private organization that assists low-income neighborhoods.

AGENDA

The Alternative Magazine of Critical Issues

NEIGHBORHOOD POLICY INSTITUTE

THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR NEIGHBORHOOD ENTERPRISE

Volume 2, Number 1, 1992

REBUILDING COMMUNITIES

What Works and Why

SPECIAL FEATURE

Neighborhood
and Enterprise

by Peter Berger





National Center for Neighborhood Enterprise

1367 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036 / (202) 331-1103

ROBERT L. WOODSON



Robert L. Woodson is founder and president of the National Center for Neighborhood Enterprise. He was formerly a resident fellow at the American Enterprise Institute where he served as the director of the institute's Neighborhood Revitalization Project. Prior to that responsibility, Mr. Woodson directed the National Urban League's Administration of Justice Division. Throughout his career, he has coordinated national and local community development programs that have incorporated the efforts of a cross-section of the American public, including low-income blacks in Chicago, business leaders in Denver, and farm workers in California. He has been a source of guidance and support to a pioneer program that has established resident management and ownership of public housing. He received a B.S. from Cheyney University and a M.S.W. from the University of Pennsylvania and participated in the University of Massachusetts' doctoral program.

His publications and articles include: "A Penn Professor's Tale of Two Urban Neighborhoods," *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, February 10, 1991, "Private Schools and Parental Choice," *The Washington Post*, January 16, 1991, "Race and Economic Opportunity," *Vanderbilt Law Review*, 1989, *On the Road to Economic Freedom: An Agenda for Black Progress*, editor, 1987; "Civil Rights and Economic Power," *IBM Think* magazine, number 2, 1987; "The Black Underclass: A Developmental Agenda for Progress," *Centerboard: The Journal of the Center for Human Relations Studies*, Spring 1986; "Saving the Poor from Their Saviors," *Brigham Young University Today*, February 1986; "Self-Help, Not Big Daddy Must Rescue the Black Underclass," *The Washington Post*, Outlook Section, May 12, 1985; "Leading from our Strengths," *Urban League Review*, Summer 1985; *A Summons to Life: Mediating Structures and the Prevention of Youth Crime*, Ballinger Publishing Co., 1981; and *Youth Crime and Urban Policy: A View from the Inner City*, editor, 1981. He has published numerous other articles in major newspapers including the *Wall Street Journal* and the *New York Times*.

Mr. Woodson is a board member of a variety of organizations which include the Commonwealth Foundation, the Federal Home Loan Bank, Region III, and the American Association of Enterprise Zones.

Mr. Woodson is frequently called upon by television and print media for statements regarding topical issues of concern to low-income and minority populations. He has lectured in colleges and universities throughout the United States and has toured internationally as a speaker and consultant. His most recent travels took him to Norway, where he addressed the 1991 World Congress of the International Union of Local Authorities (attended by more than 2,000 mayors and local leaders from 50 countries,) and to South Africa, where he probed possibilities of economic development for Black South Africans in the wake of recent changes in the apartheid system. Among the awards Mr. Woodson has received are the Outstanding Public Service Award, awarded by the Georgia Coalition of Black Women, Inc., June 1986; the 1985 George Washington Honor medal given by the Freedom Foundation at Valley Forge; the 1985 National Association of Neighborhoods' Outstanding Service to Neighborhoods Award; the 1983 Leslie Pinckney Hill Humanitarian Award, given by the Cheyney University Alumni Association; the National Black Police Association's Outstanding Service Award, 1980; and the Marian Pfister Anshutz Award, granted by the Family Research Council and Anshutz Foundation, 1990. Also in 1990, he was the recipient of the prestigious John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Fellowship Award.

The National Center for Neighborhood Enterprise, established in 1981, is a research, demonstration, technical assistance, and development organization, founded on the belief that communities must build on their own strengths and resources to develop successful strategies for dealing with economic and social problems.

A Message from Bob Woodson



As a civil rights activist in the 60s, I became, first, disillusioned and then outraged at the exploitation of the poor and minorities by those who were supposed to represent them! I began to realize that, as a nation, we had built a "Poverty Pentagon." And, the principal bene-

ficiaries of it were not the poor but *those who make their living from the poor.*

I also realized—and began to say—that low-income communities must disentangle themselves from the welfare professionals whose primary objective has become *the maintenance of clients!*

In my book, *On the Road to Economic Freedom*, I said, "Rather than accept solutions parachuted in by middle-class professional service providers, black America must recognize and expand on indigenous, self-help neighborhood efforts."

For ten years now, the *National Center for Neighborhood Enterprise* has been doing that: helping America's low-income communities "turn problems into opportunities." The NCNE is dedicated to helping low-income people realize their dreams of economic sufficiency, strong families, quality education, and safe neighborhoods.

The National Center's admirers and supporters reach from President Bush to America's premier business leaders to inner city activists. NCNE's work has been featured on *CBS Evening News*, *NBC Nightly News*, *MacNeil-Lehrer NewsHour*, and in the pages of *Time*, *Newsweek*, *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Washington Post*, and many other prominent media outlets.

If you believe that self-help, free enterprise strategies are better than welfare dependency, that strong families are better than "Big Daddy government", and that people and neighborhoods should be allowed to develop their own solutions, the *National Center for Neighborhood Enterprise* would like to have you on our team!

Sincerely,


Bob Woodson

National Center for Neighborhood Enterprise

Celebrating One Decade . . .

1991 marked the National Center's first 10 years. For more than a decade, we have been encouraging and empowering Americans toward achievement rather than dependency.

We've had an effective and successful decade because *we know - and stick to . . .*

OUR WORK: providing technical and financial assistance to self-help strategies and projects, spotlighting *what works*, networking corporate America with "neighborhood executives", and representing low-income people in the social policy debate.

OUR ISSUES: economic development, family preservation, crime prevention, and education.

OUR AUDIENCE: low-income people and communities, corporate America, policy leaders, and all those who (in the words of Bob Woodson), "believe that self-help, free enterprise strategies are better than welfare dependency, that strong families are better than 'Big Daddy government', and that people and neighborhoods should be allowed to develop their own solutions."

Come join us . . . in building a new one

We invite you to join with the *National Center for Neighborhood Enterprise* as we begin our second decade.

We will continue to build on our proven strengths to encourage and empower the public housing residents who dare to dream of home ownership, the inner city entrepreneurs trying to unlock the power of free enterprise, those who want to make their neighborhoods safe again, and low-income parents who want the best education for their children.

We are building an army of people committed to a new approach. Let's be honest; those attracted to conventional wisdom and worn out methods are *not* attracted to our work. If *you*, however, are looking to the future, if you are open to new concepts and strategies, if you are inclined to look past old paradigms and stereotypes . . . you will be happy with membership in the *National Center for Neighborhood Enterprise*.

As a member of the Center, you will receive:

- our bi-monthly publication, *From the Center*, providing an inside view of the empowerment movement
- the quarterly *Agenda*, a bright, energetic, scholarly (and fun) journal of fresh thinking on current issues
- invitations to participate in conferences, briefings, seminars, etc. held in various parts of the country throughout the year
- other publications and updates from NCNE
- big discounts on book and video resources from the National Center.

As a member of NCNE, you will also be joining what *The Wall Street Journal* calls "an important and controversial movement." More importantly, however, membership in NCNE helps to build a platform for new and fresh voices; voices which are helping American to *empower*, the "pursuit of life, liberty, and happiness" for millions of low-income people. Come join us!



National Center for Neighborhood Enterprise



*“Turning Problems
Into Opportunities”*

in

Economic Development • Education
Crime Prevention • Family Preservation

“I want to salute . . . my old friend, a man so well known to all of you, Bob Woodson, of the *National Center for Neighborhood Enterprise*.”

President Bush, nationally televised speech,
ASAE Conference, February 27, 1991

“Robert Woodson, . . . whose *National Center for Neighborhood Enterprise* in Washington has pioneered many of the housing strategies favored by Housing Secretary Jack Kemp, preaches a blend of populism aimed at poor people taking control of the institutions that control their lives.”

The New York Times
July 13, 1991

“Some people, they come in and it’s, ‘I’m here to help you, let me show you how it’s supposed to be done.’ The reason we respect Bob Woodson is he lets us dream our own dreams.”

Kimi Gray, Chairperson,
Kenilworth-Parkside Resident
Management Corporation

“One of the best things that the *National Center for Neighborhood Enterprise* does is make it possible for neighborhood people to come together and work, to learn from and share with one another.”

Carl Holman, Founder,
National Urban Coalition

“In an era when crises in the black community — teenage pregnancy, drug abuse, widespread illiteracy, crime, and unemployment — are receiving much public attention, Mr. Woodson and his colleagues believe that the problem-solving talents inherent in families, neighborhoods, and churches should be recognized and supported.”

The Christian Science Monitor,
August 18, 1986

Yes, I would like to join the National Center for Neighborhood Enterprise.

PLEASE DETACH AND MAIL TO:

☐ **INDIVIDUAL Membership**
Includes *Agenda Magazine*, *From the Center*
Newsletter, invitations to all NCNE events,
25% discount on all NCNE resources and
membership certificate

☐ **ORGANIZATIONAL membership**
Includes *Agenda Magazine*, *From the Center*
Newsletter, 2 paid registrations to all NCNE
events, 50% discount on all NCNE resources,
membership plaque and organizational
membership directory

**National Center
for Neighborhood Enterprise**
1367 Connecticut Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 331-1103

Membership in NCNE requires an annual contribution of \$25 or more for individuals and \$200 or more for organizations.
☐ **MY MEMBERSHIP CONTRIBUTION OF \$** _____ **IS ENCLOSED.**
☐ **PLEASE START MY MEMBERSHIP AND BILL ME FOR \$** _____

I am specifically interested in the following NCNE issues:

☐ Economic Development ☐ Crime Prevention ☐ Family Preservation ☐ Education

NAME _____

ORGANIZATION _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____

ZIP _____

PHONE: Office _____

Home _____

The National Center for Neighborhood Enterprise

The National Center for Neighborhood Enterprise (NCNE) was founded in 1981 with a mission of building on the strengths that exist within low-income communities. Throughout the nation, grassroots organizations have created innovative and effective strategies in countering the problems that confront their communities, and they are now being recognized as viable vehicles for social and economic revitalization. In particular, in the battle against the wave of drug abuse and drug-related crime that plagues our inner cities, it is these grassroots associations that have been most effective in rescuing our young people. They have a clear and firsthand understanding of the problems in their neighborhoods and know best what indigenous resources can be called into action. The greatest need is not for new anti-drug programs, but for funding and technical assistance that can support the effective projects that are currently underway.

Supporting Community-Based Initiatives Against Drug Abuse

Vouchers for Technical Assistance to Youth Programs

Through a grant from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), NCNE will offer vouchers for technical assistance to neighborhood programs that are working to solve the problem of drug abuse among young people. These awards can be given only to organizations whose programs are currently in progress and are not available to projects that are only in a planning stage. The vouchers will be awarded in amounts ranging from \$1,000 to \$10,000 and may be used to expand the capacity of an organization's anti-drug abuse program or to improve its service delivery. Vouchers cannot be used to support general operating expenses, the purchase of equipment, fund raising efforts, or conferences and should be used to provide financial and management support only to projects that are related to drug-abuse programs.

Who Should Apply

Any community-based association with a 501 (c) 3 status and an annual operating budget less than \$150,000 that is currently implementing an anti-drug program working with high-risk youth and/or juvenile offenders is eligible to receive a technical assistance voucher. Programs may use direct strategies to halt drug abuse, such as neighborhood patrols, or strategies of diversion such as providing activities and training to young people. Priority will be given to organizations that have been otherwise unable to secure technical assistance and have not previously received funding from OJJDP.

How Vouchers May Be Used

Among the possible uses of vouchers are the following:

- The improvement of existing anti-drug programs and services for youth, including in-service staff training and expanding intake.
 - Improving elements of management and operations, including the redesign of bookkeeping systems and organizational development.
 - Expanding the activities of youth programs such as recreation, job training, and training in economic development and entrepreneurship.
 - Designing innovations in programs to respond to emerging organizational issues and community concerns.
 - Securing professional assistance from attorneys, accountants, architects, and business and financial specialists.
 - Obtaining professional assistance in program development such as guidance in proposal writing and in dealing with external entities such as city officials, planners, bankers, auditors, and licensing agents.
-

How to Apply

To receive an application packet for a technical assistance voucher, contact

Gwen Williams
National Center for Neighborhood Enterprise
1367 Connecticut Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20036
(202) 331-1103

Community Anti-Drug-Abuse Technical Assistance Voucher Project

Vouchers are available under Grant #91-JS-CX-0001 from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice.

Opinions expressed in this document are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice.

National Center for Neighborhood Enterprise
Community Anti-Drug-Abuse Technical Assistance Voucher Project
1367 Connecticut Avenue NW
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Vouchers for Victory

*Funding for Community
Efforts to Stop Youth
Drug Abuse*



 National Center
for Neighborhood Enterprise



Building the Strengths of Those Who Serve

A Program of the National Center for Neighborhood Enterprise

INTRODUCTION

THE POWER AND POTENTIAL OF NEIGHBORHOOD LEADERSHIP

The National Center for Neighborhood Enterprise (NCNE) was founded a decade ago upon the recognition that the people who live in our low-income communities have a unique ability to solve the problems they face. Residents are in a position to recognize the root causes of these problems and they understand what resources exist within the neighborhood. Above all, they have a clear and obvious stake in the success of efforts to better the quality of life in their communities.

Time and again, resident initiatives have won victories against challenges of the inner cities that billions of dollars of funding and the advice of hordes of professionals could do nothing to help. And, historically, it has been neighborhood-based associations and the values they promoted that have given children in our low-income communities the will to succeed and have buttressed their families against the adversity they faced.

Those who founded NCNE recognized the importance of community bonds and self-help initiatives and, understanding that obstacles could often be springboards for action, adopted as its motto, "Turning Problems into Opportunities."

NLDI was made possible through a grant
from the Kellogg Foundation.

Since its inception, NCNE has served as both an advocate and advisor for hundreds of low-income individuals and neighborhood-based groups and has continually worked to empower those who have been effective in solving the social and economic problems of their communities. In the course of this effort, it became clear that, while many grassroots leaders had unique insight regarding the problems and strengths of their neighborhoods, they would need practical tools and training if their energy and ideas were to have the fullest impact. Training in administration, operations, financial management, and resource development were among the technical assistance areas that were in demand and would institutionalize grassroots efforts. To meet these needs and to provide a forum in which grassroots leaders could share their successes and learn from each other, NCNE, with a grant from the Kellogg Foundation, established the Neighborhood Leadership Development Institute.

THE NEIGHBORHOOD LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE (NLDI)

The Neighborhood Leadership Development Institute (NLDI) was created to develop the leadership capabilities of those who are acting (or emerging) as major change agents in low-income communities throughout the nation. NLDI offers training, technical assistance, and program development mini-grants to low-income community leaders who have initiated self-help strategies to solve the problems that confronted their communities. Its goal is to provide the formal skills and technical and financial resources that would allow them to organize, manage, and maintain enduring neighborhood enterprises. The Institute provides basic leadership-development courses as well as seminars for advanced technical skills for grassroots leaders. In addition, it offers workshops to educate corporate leaders regarding new strategies for involvement and investment to stimulate self-help initiatives and the revitalization of low-income communities.

BENEFITS AVAILABLE THROUGH NLDI

NLDI offers exciting and challenging learning opportunities and experiences to its participants. Among the resources it makes available are:

- Membership in a network that links community activists throughout the nation and around the world;
- Access to technology-based programs designed to enhance grassroots capacities;
- Specific information about financial and technical resources that are available to support local development projects;
- Access to information about community self-help programs and approaches that are being implemented successfully throughout the country;
- Personal guidance and assistance from a faculty of prominent technical specialists and community activists who are experts in their subject areas;
- Legislative updates and timely information on public policy developments that affect low-income communities;
- Opportunity to apply for \$5,000 mini-grants for program development, additional training, and technical assistance after completion of core curriculum;
- Training handbooks, guides, and resource materials that can serve as references and important resources in training other organization members and community residents;
- Certificate of completion of the training program and graduation exercises.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

NLDI provides basic and advanced training for community leaders who live within the low-income neighborhoods they serve and who are working to improve the quality of life in their communities. Our programs are designed to build the capacity of grassroots groups by strengthening the leadership and management skills of their leaders and representatives. Among the diverse interests of NLDI participants are:

- Crime Prevention
- Family and Youth Initiatives
- Education
- Church-Related Enterprises
- Neighborhood Housing and Real Estate
- Business and Economic Development
- Community Health Care

NLDI CORE CURRICULUM

All participants will be required to complete the core curriculum before enrolling in advanced seminars. Core Curriculum courses cover seven major subject areas:

- *Principles of Leadership: The Personal Dynamics of Leadership*
- *Personal and Professional Development: Stress Management and Finding the Strength to Serve*
- *Organizational Development: Taking your Leadership from the Informal to the Formal Arena*

-
- *Administration: Moving from Ideas to a Plan of Action*
 - *Community Development: What are Your Neighborhood's Needs and Strengths?*
 - *Business and Economic Development: Taking Control of the Institutions that Affect Our Lives*
 - *External Relations: Shaping the Organization's Image and Controlling Results.*

Instruction is designed to accommodate the needs of leaders who have a number of years of management experience, as well as prospective leaders.

To ensure that training is practical and has "real-life" application, students will be given assignments in which they employ the information and skills conveyed in workshops in specific fact-finding and problem-solving exercises regarding actual and theoretical communities.

The Institute requires that all applicants make a commitment to participate actively in the quarterly training sessions and field activities and to perform the various assignments associated with specific courses. Each of the training sessions will involve three to four days of activities including formal classes, planning laboratories, individual counseling, supplemental guest lectures, field visits, workshops, and special events. Training will begin in the fall and continue through three following quarterly sessions.

ELIGIBILITY

Organizations will be selected for participation in the NLDI training program on the basis of their

- Commitment to improving the quality of life in their neighborhoods,
- Leaders residing within the same zip code as those they serve,
- Direct access to information about neighborhood problems,
- Track record of working successfully with community residents,
- Ability to link with existing community institutions (churches, schools, and other neighborhood entities),
- Effective use of neighborhood resources rather than primary reliance on funding from outside sources,
- Strong base of neighborhood and community support, and
- Potential to have a significant impact on neighborhood social and economic conditions.

While it is not expected that groups will meet all of the criteria, they should be able to demonstrate that they have a record of working successfully in low-income communities, directly with the residents, on a formal and informal basis.

LOCATION

Most courses and workshops will be conducted at residential training facilities in the Washington, DC, area. Meeting sites will be located within 30 minutes of the city center and will be easily accessible from all of the area airports and train and bus stations. Transportation between arrival points and training centers will be provided.

Special training programs and conference workshops may be conducted at selected regional locations. In addition, field training sessions will be planned to give participants the opportunity for site visits and first-hand experience with leaders and residents in selected neighborhoods.

Complete details for all training sessions will be included in the confirmation package that will be sent to all selected applicants.

REGISTRATION

Application packets are available and can be ordered through the attached request form. Applications will be reviewed by a selection committee comprised of NCNE and NLDI staff, faculty, and advisors. The final selection of leaders will be based on telephone interviews and the evaluation of applications by the selection committee. Participants will be notified of their selection by mail. Fee schedules and scholarship information will be included in the application package.

Financial aid is available, and participants who require assistance with the payment of tuition, transportation, and other costs are encouraged to apply. Applications for financial aid will be included in the application package. Applicants must complete and submit a brief form describing their needs.

THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR NEIGHBORHOOD ENTERPRISE

The National Center for Neighborhood Enterprise (NCNE) is a non-partisan, nonprofit organization founded in 1981 to assist low-income Americans to improve their lives through innovative self-help approaches. During its ten-year history of “turning problems into opportunities,” the Center has helped to chronicle (and create) success stories of low-income communities throughout the nation.

NCNE has several fundamental qualifications which enable it to embark on this effort of training community leaders:

- **Credibility** — A proven track record of effectiveness has won the Center a broad spectrum of supporters, including the President of the United States, some of the nation’s premier business leaders, and an emerging cadre of academics and grassroots activists who dare to venture beyond the boundaries of conventional solutions to the problems of our low-income communities.
- **Commitment** — The National Center for Neighborhood Enterprise has exhibited a passionate and constant commitment to low-income people. Unaffected by popular trends and political shifts, NCNE has remained steadfast in its loyalty to its founding principles and mission—to empower the poor to take the reins of their communities.
- **Connections** — NCNE is the nerve center for a unique network of alternative voices — policy leaders, inner-city entrepreneurs, business leaders, philanthropists, and other “risk-takers” who are committed to a new vision.
- **Clarity of Purpose** — Robert L. Woodson and others associated with NCNE speak with a new and prophetic voice. Their trumpet sound has challenged the existing poverty industry and heralds change in society’s perception of low-income capacities. It has highlighted the life-changing principles and values which have guided the efforts of people in low-income communities to develop their own strategies for success.

Through a combination of research and hands-on technical support, NCNE has applied market-oriented, self-help strategies, rooted in the spirit of free enterprise, in its effort to empower people. NCNE focuses on four primary policy areas: job creation and economic development, education, family preservation, and crime prevention.

As a research institute, NCNE

- Locates and evaluates successful neighborhood self-help groups and programs;
- Identifies barriers — private and governmental — that impede social and economic development; and
- Determines what mix of public policies and neighborhood strategies is most likely to produce success.

As a demonstration organization, NCNE

- Adapts successful models from one community to another by building on neighborhood strengths and resources;
- Promotes innovative approaches to development and revitalization using market-oriented strategies;
- Provides hands-on technical assistance to local organizations and individuals with other institutions, groups, and individuals; and
- Serves as an advocate for the interests of low-income people and neighborhood groups.

Neighborhood Leaders!!!

- You have shown your ability to motivate, demonstrate, and agitate!
The question is . . . Can you operate?
- Take the challenge offered by NCNE and NLDI and, on behalf of all those who look to you for leadership, take advantage of this opportunity to sharpen and develop your organizational skills!

Friday

MARCH 27,
1992

Faith and Philosophy

The Detroit News

PAGE 3B

Forum targets problems of poor in 5 Midwest states

By Corey Williams

THE DETROIT NEWS

The church historically has been the voice of poor people through good and bad times.

That role is even more important today, leaders say, and will be tested during *What Works and Why*, a national grass-roots campaign to develop strategies for empowering low-income communities.

More than 300 churches and other organizations from urban and rural areas in Michigan, Illinois, Ohio, Indiana and Missouri are expected to

attend the Detroit town meeting from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday at the Greater Detroit Chamber of Commerce, 600 W. Lafayette.

The campaign is sponsored by the National Center for Neighborhood Enterprise, REACH Inc. and the Allstate Foundation.

"We think the church has historically been the deliverer of black America," said Robert L. Woodson Sr., president of the Washington-based NCNE.

NCNE is a nonprofit center founded in 1981 to promote self-help among low-income people.

"It has only been in the last 25 years that the church's role has been supplanted by poverty programs and emphasis on political action," he said. "By looking to the church we are trying to recapture that kind of moral anchor that has sustained us in the past."

The town meeting is a forum where resources and strategies are shared, Woodson said.

The church should be at the center of information exchange, agreed James A. Williams Jr., administrative assistant and minister of music at Twelfth Street Baptist, which

founded REACH Inc.

"As we look for a way to liberate our people economically, the church must still remain in the forefront," he said. "When our church began its ministry, we had to touch every aspect of life in the community."

Examples of roles churches can play in their communities are the revitalization of the Pilgrim Village community, in which REACH Inc. has leveraged more than \$5 million in real dollars and equity, and efforts by the Episcopal Church of the Messiah to establish cooperative housing for low-to-moderate-income families

along East Grand Boulevard near Jefferson.

"A failure by churches to connect with folks in the community would raise a question in my mind," said the Rev. Ronald Spann, Church of the Messiah pastor.

"It requires some listening to points of pain and frustration from the community," Spann said. "When you listen to the people you find about the 'felt' needs. The church, by helping people mobilize around that point of pain, can help people begin to see their power."

■ Bob Woodson speaks out on survival tactics for low-income communities. Page 2

■ Kenilworth-Parkside gets its very own bus. Page 3

■ School is in session at NCNE's leadership institute. Page 4

■ NCNE is gearing up for town hall meetings. Page 5

January/February 1992 Vol3 No1



FROM THE CENTER

A BIMONTHLY NEWSLETTER PUBLISHED BY THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR NEIGHBORHOOD ENTERPRISE

Black Pastors Network for Community Economic Development

Something extraordinary happened on February 4 through 7 in Tampa, Florida, that marks the beginning of a movement in the black church. The event was an unprecedented conference of black pastors who spent four spiritually-charged days examining the role of the black church as a catalyst for economic development.

Anchored by Values

"Any effective strategy to uplift communities must be anchored by values," comments NCNE President Bob Woodson who convened the conference in conjunction with the Reverend Lee Earl, pastor of

Twelfth Street Baptist Church (Detroit, MI), and the Reverend Buster Soaries, pastor of First Baptist Church of Lincoln Gardens (Somerset, NJ).

This first-of-its-kind event was attended by fifteen of the nation's most progressive clerics who waded in the "great waters" of *intellectual excellence, relational integrity, and moral consistency*, the guiding principles of the conference.

A series of workshops were conducted on community wealth creation which focused on managing financial and human resources. The technical training was part of an overall effort to form a God-centered strategy for ameliorating low-income neighborhoods. "You cannot talk about black economic development, without talking about the black church," comments Reverend Soaries, who spoke

Continued on page 5

Reverend Donald Hunter (l), pastor of the New Sunny Mount Baptist Church in St. Louis, MO, discusses community economic development strategies with Reverend Lee Earl (r), co-convenor of the Tampa conference.

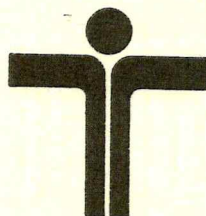


In The News

Volume 8

Rising From The Ashes:

Grassroots Hope and the Quest to Rebuild



National Center for Neighborhood Enterprise
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Washington, D.C. 20036
(202) 331-1103

National Center for Neighborhood Enterprise Resource List

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- _____ Revitalizing Our Cities: New Approaches to Solving Urban Problems @ \$2.00
- _____ Empowering Residents of Public Housing: A Resource Guide for Resident Management @ \$7.95
- _____ Entrepreneurial Enclaves in the African American Experience @ \$5.00
- _____ On the Road to Economic Freedom @ \$15.00
- _____ Agenda Magazine (quarterly) @ \$3.00
- _____ From the Center (bi-monthly) free

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- _____ *A Companion Manual to the HUD Comprehensive Improvement and Assistance Program (CIAP) Handbook* - Guide to Understanding CIAP @ \$9.95

Video Tapes

- _____ *The Story of Resident Management*
Resident Management Policy Video - 30 minutes @ \$30.00
- _____ *Accepting the Challenge*
Resident Management Training Video - 29 minutes @ \$30.00
- _____ *Reverse Commute*
Resident-Owned and Operated Transit Business - Training video - 16 minutes @ \$ 6.00
- _____ *Not Here You Don't* - NCNE Anti-Drug Satellite Teleconference
1 hr. 55 min. @ \$40.00

Name _____

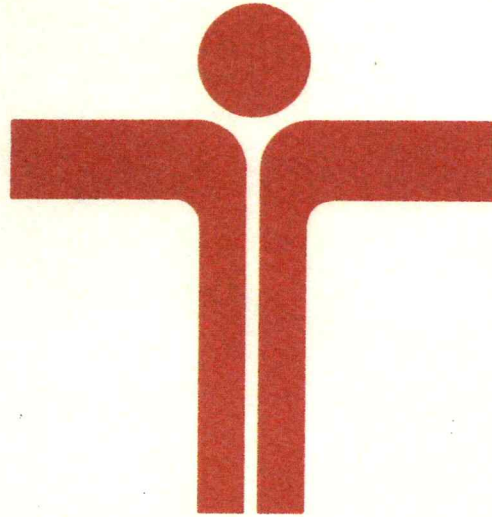
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